

# ROCKY SHORE IDENTIFICATION – COMMON SPECIES FOUND IN VICTORIA

Cut out the species cards along the dotted lines, leaving the species description and photo joined together.

## SPECIES FROM THE UPPER SHORELINE

### UPPER SHORELINE

#### **False Limpet**

While similar in appearance to other intertidal limpets that have gills, these animals breath air and have a small groove on one side to allow airflow into their bodies.



### UPPER SHORELINE

#### **Blue Periwinkle**

Located high on the rock platform to avoid being washed away, these small grazing snails are often found in crevices, reducing their exposure to the sun and wind and helping to prevent water loss.



### UPPER SHORELINE

#### **Striped Conniwink**

These herbivore snails live on the upper part of the rock platform. To feed, conniwinks and other snails have a chainsaw-like tongue called a radula that is used to scrape tiny algae for food from the rocks.



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## SPECIES FROM THE MID SHORELINE

### MID SHORELINE

#### **Waratah Anemone**

When out of the water these anemones look like little red blobs. When underwater, they fan out their red tentacles to catch prey.



### MID SHORELINE

#### **Ribbed Top Shell**

This snail feeds on microalgae on the rocks and has distinctive spiral ridges like an old fashioned spinning top.



### MID SHORELINE

#### **Smooth Limpet**

Many limpets have a kind of homing beacon that allows them to return to the same location where their shell matches the shape of the rock surface to help protect them from drying out when exposed.



### MID SHORELINE

#### **Honeycomb Barnacle**

Barnacles are crustaceans with hard, segmented shells cemented to the rock. They open up two valves at high tide to filter food from the seawater using their hairy legs.





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## MID SHORELINE

### **Beaked Mussel**

Mussels anchor themselves to rocks using secretions that harden on contact with seawater and feed by filtering seawater.



## MID SHORELINE

### **Sea Lettuce**

Forming bright green patches on the reef and in rockpools, this algae is an important food source for a number of grazing snails. Its large leafy fronds also provide an excellent habitat for other marine critters.



## MID SHORELINE

### **Red Turfing Algae**

This plant looks like a marine version of moss and grows on rocks in dark red-brown clumps. It can also be found growing on mussels or on the limeys made by tube worms.



## MID SHORELINE

### **Shore Crabs**

These crabs can be found abundantly under stones and in rockpools. They scavenge their meals from the rich feasts of food that the tide brings in.



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## MID SHORELINE

### **Tube Worm**

These worms form large colonies and have a hard calcareous tube in which they live with only their feathery mouth parts sticking out to filter food when under water.



## MID SHORELINE

### **Sea Anemone**

They may look like a harmless flower but these deadly animals have a mouth surrounded by long tentacles covered with powerful stinging cells. They use these tentacles to paralyse any small animals that drift too close.



## MID SHORELINE

### **Neptune's Necklace**

This seaweed is made up of small beadlike segments that contain water which prevent it from drying out at low tide. It provides an important habitat for many other marine organisms.



## MID SHORELINE

### **Warrener**

One of the more conspicuous herbivores on the mid to lower rocky shores, this snail has a green and white striped shell with a large opening that can be completely closed at low tide by a tight fitting round lid.





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## MID SHORELINE

### **Encrusting Coralline Algae**

Forming a pink crust which spreads across rocks, these unusual red algae have a hard surface to protect them from drying out.



## MID SHORELINE

### **Chequerboard Snail**

This carnivorous snail scavenges between the rocks for dead animals to feed on. It uses a long, tube-like siphon to 'sniff out' potential food.



## MID SHORELINE

### **Dog Whelk**

This serious predator on the rocky shores has a distinctive groove in the end of its shell that allows it to extend its siphon to detect prey species including tubeworms, mussels, warreners, and cunjevoi.



# ROCKY SHORE IDENTIFICATION – COMMON SPECIES FOUND IN VICTORIA

## SPECIES FROM THE LOWER SHORELINE

### LOWER SHORELINE

#### **Chiton**

With their distinctive shells made from eight overlapping plates, these grazing molluscs have a large muscular foot that keeps them attached to the rock surface.



### LOWER SHORELINE

#### **Cunjevoi (Sea Squirt)**

This strange animal's name comes from its habit of shooting out jets of water when disturbed. It is a filter feeder that has one siphon for sucking water in and another for squirting water out.



### LOWER SHORELINE

#### **Bull Kelp**

One of the key species on exposed Victorian rocky shores, these large brown algae can grow up to 8m in length and have strong holdfasts that firmly anchor them onto the reef.





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## SPECIES FROM ROCKPOOLS

### ROCKPOOLS

#### **Elephant Snail**

Generally found under ledges and rocks, these very large snails have a distinctive black colour, two long tentacles, and a small white shell often hidden under folds of skin.



### ROCKPOOLS

#### **Little Green Seastar**

This tiny seastar only grows up to around 2cm across in shallow rockpools and is often found in areas with Neptune's Necklace seaweed.



### ROCKPOOLS

#### **Common Seastar**

This seastar's table manners leave something to be desired; when it finds food, it pushes its stomach outside of its body in order to envelop and digest its meal. This seastar is the garbage guts of the rocky shore! It will eat anything it can fit its stomach over.



### ROCKPOOLS

#### **Seaweed Crab**

This crab is a master of camouflage. It picks and grows seaweed on its shell to hide from predators. Amazingly, it can also change its seaweed 'suit' to match the type of seaweed it is hiding in.



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## ROCKPOOLS

### Sea Hare

The so-called Sea Hare is in fact a large sea slug. It is named for its large protruding tentacles, thought to resemble the ears of a rabbit. When disturbed, sea hares can release a bright purple ink to ward off predators.



## SPECIES TO STAY AWAY FROM

### BEWARE!

### Blue Ringed Octopus

These small octopuses are masters of camouflage, often hiding in crevices or under rocks. But when disturbed, iridescent blue rings appear to warn potential predators. Their powerful toxins cause paralysis. *Do not touch!*



## SOURCE

Explore Victoria's Rocky Shores - <http://parkweb.vic.gov.au/explore/parks/bunurong-marine-park>